

them as a part of that program to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers. Leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer in children and young adults under the age of 20. Thanks to this program, schools across the country have been collecting important resources to fund valuable research and provide patient care.

Programs like Pennies for Patients teach young students how they can impact the lives of their peers and the communities they live in.

I am incredibly proud of the students at Oak Point for all of their hard work and their service, and I congratulate them. I hope they have a great time at their much-deserved pizza party next week.

TACKLING THE DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the United States is the greatest Nation ever in the history of mankind—a Nation that many countries look to as a leader, a leader in strength, in security, in success. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot lead from behind. We are behind on repaying our debts in a major way, all the while creating even more debt.

Rather than focusing on raising the debt ceiling, Mr. Speaker, we should be putting all of our energy into reducing the debt. These overdue bills are bad for job creation and bad for our economy. As Admiral Mullen recently said: Our debt is the most dangerous threat to our national security. I could not agree more.

If Congress continues to spend money as it has in the past, we will only become more reliant upon foreign countries to buy up our debt, making our economy secondary to theirs. It is dangerous. It is irresponsible. It is unforgivable.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has taken our already weakened economy and turned it completely upside down, while allowing for the largest budget deficit in the history of the United States. The great cost of the stimulus bill, multiple government bailouts, and ObamaCare have pushed our country over the edge. I beg of my colleagues to not let this great Nation hit rock bottom before we make tackling the debt our first and foremost priority. Jobs, our economy, and our future depend upon it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. John Sloop, First Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come in prayer knowing that You love us and are very much concerned about what goes on in this Chamber today as these Members seek to be good stewards of the trust placed in them by "we the people."

We confess our human frailty and pray to be delivered from taking up today's agenda out of pure self-interest or peer pressure, but rather lead us, Lord, "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God."

Father, grant each Member wisdom in their thinking on the issues, courage in their convictions, and above all, grace in their attitudes toward one another.

And when this day is done, may each one hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Now, Father, with deep respect for the faith traditions of all Members, I offer this prayer in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING REVEREND DR. JOHN SLOOP

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce and welcome the Reverend Dr. John Sloop, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia, a church that has grown to over 1,100 members and over 500 attendees for Sunday services. Dr. Sloop has served the First Presbyterian Church and the Harrisonburg

community since he received his calling in 1986.

Dr. Sloop is passionate about seeing the Presbyterian Church renewed and growing again, and he has been actively involved in Presbyterian for Renewal, the Presbyterian Coalition, the Confessing Church movement, and has served on the board of the Presbyterian Outreach Foundation.

Dr. Sloop and his wife of 41 years, Gwen, are the proud parents of three children and two sons-in-law and have been blessed by five grandchildren. We welcome Dr. Sloop's family and other guests who join us today.

And I am honored to call Dr. Sloop a constituent and a friend, and I offer the thanks of this entire body today for his delivering the opening prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OFFICER KEVIN WILL PAGE II

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while Washington lives on in ignorant bliss regarding immigration, the American border remains wide open for the good, the bad, and the ugly. Often, outlaws that enter our country illegally are criminals with no respect for the law of any nation.

This past Sunday, hours before the crack of dawn, twice-deported illegal Johoan Rodriguez drove through a police barricade and ran over and killed Houston Police Officer Kevin Will while he was working an accident scene.

Rodriguez's immigration status was far from the only crime he committed that day. Rodriguez, a purported member of the MS-13 gang, was driving three times the legal limit drunk and was charged with driving while intoxicated, possession of cocaine, evading arrest, and manslaughter. The crime was so violent that Officer Will's body was dragged down the road before the killer stopped and was apprehended.

Deportation is no deterrent to criminals like Rodriguez, because as long as our border remains wide open in both directions, criminals will simply return to the United States and kill Americans. Meanwhile, Officer Will will be buried today.

And that's just the way it is.

LEAVE MEDICARE ALONE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to their idea of eliminating